

## PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

**MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm**

Members: Cllr A Berry (Chairman) (P) Cllr O Barneveld (P)  
Cllr A Kirby (P) Cllr L Price (P)  
Cllr P Bennett (P)

Also, present Cllr David Crichton – Chairman of the Parish Council, Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council and 8 members of the public.

084/24H Apologies: All councillors were present.  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

085/24H Declarations of Interest: Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the community group. **NOTED.**

086/24H Previous Minutes: The minutes from the Highways and General Purposes meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were received. There was one typo to amend. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED by the councillors who were present at the previous meeting that the minutes of the Council meeting be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

087/24H Public Session: Eight members of the public were in attendance. A transcript of the business which transpired is appended to these minutes.

088/24H Outstanding Matters and Matters Arising: The Chairman mentioned that he would like to see some changes in the way that the agenda and minutes of the committee are reported. He stated that he would work alongside the clerk to make changes so that a record is kept and actions recorded. He went on to give an overview of his role within Newlands Parish Council for the benefit of the public in attendance, explaining that he wants to ensure that contractors are working as they are supposed to be and ensuring the health and safety of the MDA. He often writes reports and takes photographs of any concerns raised and will pass them onto the clerk who will then sent on to the appropriate contact. **NOTED.**

Cllr Price wished to raise some matters from the last meeting of the committee. He questioned who had informed councillors that the site for the proposed cemetery is on a gas main? A pipe running on the national gas gridwork lies underneath the proposed site which has ruled the area out for burials. Cllr Price stated that he will investigate this further.

He then went on to speak about enforcement, as residents had reported issues with cars parking inappropriately across pavements. He believes that the Highways authority should still enforce parking, even though the roads are not adopted. Both the County Councillor and District Councillors have reported that Highways cannot do anything about this. Councillor Price will look into this matter further and report back further findings. **NOTED.** Cllr Price also believes that it should be possible for a speed watch group to monitor cars in the MDA. The Chairman stated that he has discussed this matter with the higher policing team including the Police and Crime commissioner, Donna Jones and followed their advice that no speed watch can take place until roads have been adopted by the Highways Authority.

Cllr Price queried the trees on roads matter which as recorded in the last minutes. Councillors then went on to inform the residents in attendance that some trees unfortunately

will have to be felled due to Ash die-back. Grainger have reported that the trees will be re-planted. Grainger will also notify residents of this, so as to try and avoid upset. The final point which Cllr Price wished to make is that he believes the Equality Act is advisory and not enforceable. The Chairman believes otherwise and reported that it has been raised in law in an industrial tribunal.

- 089/24H Adoption Update: Cllr Crichton gave a verbal update. On the Wellington Park side of the development the section 104 agreement looks set to go ahead and the outstanding problems resolved. There will be a period of 12 months monitoring before adoption of the roads etc. can be applied for. The repairs to the faulty streetlights are still outstanding. There currently are areas of flooding within Darnel crescent. The SUDS system is not taking surface water away meaning that water remains in residents front gardens. Residents have had to cover up their air bricks to prevent water coming into their homes. Taylor Wimpey has a responsibility to fix this. The Chairman thought that Winchester City Council ought to be made aware of the issues. The dwarf fencing in Wellington Park which was badly damaged has now been removed. Contractors are to clean the SUDS area in Newlands Walk, paths still remain flooded despite various reports and photos sent to WCC, still no remedial works have been carried out. **NOTED.**
- a)
- b) Berewood: Cllr Barneveld mentioned that flooding was particularly bad on Plant Farm Crescent, the swales were backed up, this has been reported to Bloor homes. The rubbish in the area that had been reported still requires clearing. Cllr Bennett reported two positives in that Barratt homes have responded to residents concerns about the state of the roads. They have made promises to get the outstanding roads sorted by the end of the year. **NOTED.** Flooding on Marrelsmoor Avenue has now been resolved. The Chairman reported that it doesn't seem like the gullies are being cleared, stones are blocking them. He suggested that the Parish council will require a schedule of cleaning upon adoption. **NOTED.**
- c) Grainger Bi-monthly meeting: The clerk gave a verbal report. Allotments were discussed, the Northern allotments will be ready first, a planning matter is still to be approved regarding parking provision. The deed of variation is also still awaited. Cllr Berry is keen that the Parish council are ready and able to take on responsibility of the allotments as soon as they are ready. A brief overview of the plans regarding the phases of adoption was provided and commuted sums were spoken about. Another meeting to discuss this further is required. **NOTED.**
- The Warden had asked for all play equipment documentation to be provided to the Parish council upon handover as this was covered during his playground training. It was confirmed that this will be provided.
- Litter bins were mentioned and Grainger agreed to the installation of a bin in the community hall carpark. The installation of a nappy bin was mentioned and Grainger agreed to this also. It was also suggested that the men's toilets have sanitary waste bins as recognition of the need for these has become apparent.
- 090/24H Correspondence: items of correspondence relating to this committee had been dealt with.
- 091/24H Depot/Compound: The clerk gave a verbal update. There was a delay to the compound area being ready due to the surface not being suitable for the containers to sit on. An aggregate surface will be laid and paths may need defining. It was queried whether the lock to the compound and work to the gate had yet been carried out as this is a current health and safety issue. **NOTED.**
- 093/24H Fencing and Rubbish: The Chairman wished to speak about fencing a rubbish in the development. On the Wellington Park side of the development 2 or 3 fences are down

and on Park Farm Crescent many are damaged. The Chair stated that he will photograph these and send to the clerk who will contact the relevant management companies, developers. There is also a lot of rubbish in the flower beds and on the Wellington Park side, he reported that this was particularly bad. If Trash busters are in the area, they may like to concentrate on this area or it was suggested that Taylor Wimpey carry out the work. **NOTED.**

It was queried what contractors that Grainger are currently using for grounds maintenance. The clerk reported that she believes this is Nurture, as they are to share the compound. A difference in the level of cleaning had been noted. Cllr Bennett encourages residents to report and litter. **NOTED.**

094/24H Speed monitors and speeding issues: Another speed monitor has been agreed for purchase. The Warden was asked to provide the latest speed monitor reports. The Chairman and the community group had carried out a traffic survey. He plans to repeat this in the future as he felt it had made a difference and potential speed offenders certainly looked as though they were slowing down. The current speed monitor is to be moved to another location. Once the roads are adopted it was suggested that a speed watch group be set up. Police will train members of the group with how to use speed cameras. The chairman is keen for number plate recognition cameras to be used. These may not help with prosecution. It was suggested that Grainger be asked for help in moved and installing the current speed camera to another location and also for help installing the new camera once it's been purchased. **NOTED.** Records should be kept on file of all speed monitor data. **NOTED.**

095/24H Parking: Issues regarding the parking enforcement company continue to be an issue. Recent cases have meant that members of the public are being fined for just waiting seconds in certain areas. One resident reported that she had appealed and her fine and been overturned. It is hoped that other people will appeal fines should they receive them incorrectly. It was queried whether Grainger should be making this information known by putting an item in their newsletter? Or perhaps stating the information on the website. It still isn't clear what blue badge holders should do or people moving homes etc. when it comes to avoiding fines. It was suggested that this matter be discussed further at the next Grainger meeting in the hope for some clarity. **NOTED.**

096/24H Media and communications sub-committee: Cllr Bennett has produced a 4-page document regarding recommendations for the sub-committee to action. These will be circulated to all councillors. It was asked whether this could be added to the Full Council agenda for discussion/approval. Cllr Kirby suggested that the matter is covered by this committee in the first instance. **NOTED.** Cllr Bennett stated that a few items are missing from the Parish council website. She also wishes all councillors to be able to send and receive email from their councillor email addresses. The clerk mentioned that the website providers do not communicate updates requirements etc. Another provider could be a consideration. It was agreed that Cllr Bennett could investigate this. **NOTED.** Internet access for hall users has been requested. This matter will be considered at the next Full Council meeting. With regards to a newsletter, it was suggested that any newsletter the council produce be of digital format, which will be of minimal cost to the council.

097/24H Update on outstanding issues: The Chairman requested that for the next committee agenda allotment items be considered. He suggested a form be created to see who is still interested and to determine who out the interested parties may be disabled and therefore could require a raised plot. Cllr Crichton wondered if this is still a bit early as the readiness of the allotments has still not been determined. The Chairman of the committee

wishes to start taking action now so that things are in place beforehand. Grainger state that the allotments may be ready in May 2024. All councillors agreed that pending this information, the ball should start rolling, but to warn plot holders that the allotments may still be a while away from being ready. Planning matters and a deed of variation as well 106 agreements remain outstanding. It was suggested that the council use the form and documentation that the allotment society produces. **NOTED.**

Community Orchards were mentioned as communications had previously been circulated regarding grants being available. The community group had shown an interest. This is something however that the council wish to provide and support. At this stage it is very difficult to determine and give details of land etc. without actually having ownership of the land. It was suggested that this be raised as an item for the next meeting with Grainger for discussion. **NOTED.**

It was previously asked if the clerk could circulate the warden's job description. The clerk will ensure everyone receives a copy. **NOTED.**

It was also suggested that the council write to Kite packaging who have just taken on a unit in the business park and welcome them to Newlands Parish. HGV goods vehicles will also be monitored as well as monitoring traffic and parking. **NOTED.**

Cllr Bennett pointed out a correction required to this year's meeting dates. The clerk will amend accordingly. **NOTED.**

Cllr Bennett informed everyone of the next Barratt's meeting due to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. She hi-lighted the fact that Barratt's have promised to have all works to roads and pavements complete by September 2024. She realizes this will cause major disruption and concern for residents. All councillors welcome at the next Barratt's meeting. She wished to also give thanks to the Grainger representative who had attended the last meeting. **NOTED.**

098/24H Other reports: No other reports to mention.

The meeting closed 9:20pm

The next meeting of the Highways and General-purpose Committee is scheduled for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

### Public Participation:

The first member of the public queried why Cllr Kirby – the council's representative to WACA does not declare an interest at council meetings. This matter had been raised previously and thought unnecessary as the council have appointed him. Cllr Kirby is also the Chair of the board of Trustees at WACA. It was agreed that he would now declare an interest at meetings. **NOTED.**

It was then suggested that the Parish Council website display a list of councillors and any appointments to outside bodies. **NOTED.**

The second member of the public has felt confused about some of the items on the agenda. He asked whether the council would consider changing the format of these.

He felt confused about the correspondence item, as that does not explain what is covered. He also thought that the council were missing policies on their website. The council are in the process of what needs to be included on the website.

Flooding on the main roundabout was mentioned by another member of the public. The Chairman gave assurance that Hampshire Highways are aware of the problem, it is suspected that the drains cannot take the additional surface water. The roundabout is situated on Havant Borough Council land therefore the matter needs raising with Cllr Anne Briggs and County Councillor Patricia Stallard.

It was queried whether crossing patrol should be in-situ outside the school? This is a matter that the school need to consider but insurance complications are implicated. Roads are not adopted but upon adoption Hampshire highways may look into the matter further. Zebra crossing was suggested as well as rumble strips. It was queried whether Grainger could install speed humps. It was thought that yes, they could but they could only be a temporary measure. The council are trying to calm speeding within the development and currently use a speed monitor camera. Another is planned for purchase shortly.

The Chairman of the council reminded members of the public that an email address – [berewood@graingerplc.co.uk](mailto:berewood@graingerplc.co.uk) exists for any concerns relating to Grainger/Berewood land. A change of staffing has been implemented. A new community officer is expected shortly and it is hoped that all concerns members of the public will be addressed.

Another member of the public has noticed several blind spots in the development and noted them. It was asked that these be passed on to the Chairman of the committee. **NOTED.**

Another member of the public asked whether the main roundabout could possibly be changed to a traffic lights system? The Chair informed everyone that Hampshire Highways have carried out a survey on traffic to the roundabout and thought that at the present time, no changes are required. No changes are likely until all building works are complete at the MDA. The traffic within the retail park is an ongoing problem, with only one way out. There is no easy solution to this problem. Hargreaves are the management of the retail park are therefore responsible for this. Comments can be passed on via the clerk if residents wish to do so, the clerk will then send to Cllr Anne Briggs of Havant Borough Council. **NOTED.**